Case 7634CC&

CARBON FIBER FILTERS

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a continuation of Application No. 10/321,214, filed December 17, 2002, which is a continuation of 09/347,223, filed July 2, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part patent application which claims the benefit of (1) U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial Number 60/091,593 filed July 2, 1998; (2) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/935,631 filed September 23, 1997, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/027,193, filed September 30, 1996, entitled "Preparation of Monolithic Carbon Fiber Composite Material"; (3) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/747,109, filed November 8, 1996, entitled "Activated Carbon Fiber Composite Material and Method of Making" which depends from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/358,857, filed December 19, 1994, entitled "Activated Carbon Fiber Composite Material and Method of Making", and (4) U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/132,309, filed May 3, 1999 by M. E. Tremblay et al., entitled "Filters for Removal of Pathogens from Liquids", the substances of which are incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to filters capable of removing various contaminants, including pathogens, from fluids (air and liquids) by filtration. In particular, it relates to filters that comprise activated carbon fibers for removing a broad spectrum of contaminants, including viruses, from liquids. Additionally, the invention relates to a method of removing contaminants from liquids.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Water may contain many different kinds of contaminants including, for example, particulates, harmful chemicals, and microbiological organisms, such as bacteria, parasites, protozoa and viruses. In a variety of circumstances, these contaminants must be removed before the water can be used. For example, in many medical applications and in the manufacture of certain electronic components, extremely pure water is required. As a more common example,